

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image input system in which at least first and second information processing units are connected via a network, comprising:

first control means in the first information processing unit controlling a first image input device connected to the first information processing unit to supply input image data to various application programs by a predetermined image input interface;

second control means for supplying image data input by the first image input device to a first application program installed in the second information processing unit by transferring control information based on the image input interface via the network, the control information being exchanged between the first application program and said first control means; and

third control means for compulsorily changing part of the data exchanged between the first application program and said first control means via said second control means.

2. An image input system according to Claim 1, wherein, the data compulsorily changed by said third control means includes data indicating a mode for transferring the image data from the first image input device to the first

application program.

3. An image input system according to Claim 2, wherein, the image input interface includes, as modes for transferring image data from the input device to an application program, a first transfer mode for batch-transferring image data and a second transfer mode for dividing image data in data block units based on an instruction from the application program and transferring blocks of the image data in sequence, and

wherein, said third control means changes the first transfer mode designated by the first application program to the second transfer mode.

4. An image input system according to Claim 3, further comprising:

fourth control means in the second information processing unit controlling a second image input device connected to the second information processing unit to supply input image data to the various application programs by the predetermined image input interface; and

selection means for selecting, from a plurality of image input devices including the first and second image input devices, an image input device for supplying image data to the first application program,

wherein said third control means selectively changes the first transfer mode designated by the first application program to the second transfer mode in accordance with the selection result obtained by said selection means.

5. An image input system according to Claim 4, wherein, when the second image input device is selected by said selection means, said third control means does not change the first transfer mode designated by the first application program to the second transfer mode.

6. An image input system according to Claim 3, wherein, said third control means analyzes the control information from the first application program for controlling said first control means and selectively changes the first transfer mode designated by the first application program to the second transfer mode in accordance with the analysis result.

7. An image input system according to Claim 6, wherein, said third control means determines a size of image data by analyzing the control information from the first application program for controlling said first control means and selectively changes the first transfer mode designated by the first application program to the second transfer mode in

accordance with the determination result.

8. An information processing unit connected to a network, comprising:

communication means for communicating data with a first image input device on the network, the first image input device supplying input image data to various application programs by a predetermined image input interface;

first control means for supplying image data from the first image input device to a first application program installed in said information processing unit by transferring control information based on the image input interface via the network, the control information being exchanged between the first application program and the first image input device; and

second control means for compulsorily changing part of the data exchanged between the first application program and the first image input device via said first control means.

9. An information processing unit according to Claim 8, wherein, the data compulsorily changed by said second control means includes data indicating a mode for transferring the image data from the first image input device to the first application program.

10. An information processing unit according to Claim 9, wherein, the image input interface includes, as modes for transferring image data from the first image input device to an application program, a first transfer mode for batch-transferring image data and a second transfer mode for dividing image data in data block units based on an instruction from the application program and transferring blocks of the image data in sequence, and

wherein, said second control means changes the first transfer mode designated by the first application program to the second transfer mode.

11. An information processing unit according to Claim 10, further comprising:

image input means for controlling a second image input device connected to said information processing unit to supply input image data to the various application programs by the predetermined image input interface; and

selection means for selecting, from a plurality of options including the first image input device and said image input means, an image input source for supplying image data to the first application program,

wherein, in accordance with the selection result obtained by said selection means, said second control means selectively changes the first transfer mode designated by

the first application program to the second transfer mode.

12. An information processing unit according to Claim 11, wherein, when said image input means is selected by said selection means, said second control means does not change the first transfer mode designated by the first application program to the second transfer mode.

13. An information processing unit according to Claim 10, wherein, said second control means analyzes the control information from the first application program for controlling the first image input device and selectively changes the first transfer mode designated by the first application program to the second transfer mode in accordance with the analysis result.

14. An information processing unit according to Claim 13, wherein, said second control means determines a size of image data by analyzing the control information from the first application program for controlling the first image input device and selectively changes the first transfer mode designated by the first application program to the second transfer mode in accordance with the determination result.

15. An information processing method for an

information processing unit connected to a network, said information processing method comprising:

a communication step for communicating data with a first image input device on the network, the first image input device supplying input image data to various application programs by a predetermined image input interface;

a first control step for supplying image data from the first image input device to a first application program installed in said information processing unit by transferring control information based on the image input interface via the network, the control information being exchanged between the first application program and the first image input device; and

a second control step for compulsorily changing part of the data exchanged between the first application program and the first image input device via said first control means.

16. An information processing method according to Claim 15, wherein, the data compulsorily changed in said second control step includes data indicating a mode for transferring the image data from the first image input device to the first application program.

17. An information processing method according to

Claim 16, wherein, the image input interface includes, as modes for transferring image data from the first image input device to an application program, a first transfer mode for batch-transferring image data and a second transfer mode for dividing image data in data block units based on an instruction from the application program and transferring blocks of the image data in sequence, and

wherein, in said second control step, the first transfer mode designated by the first application program is changed to the second transfer mode.

18. An information processing method according to Claim 17, further comprising:

an image input step for controlling a second image input device connected to said information processing unit to supply input image data to the various application programs by the predetermined image input interface; and

a selection step for selecting, from a plurality of options including image input performed by the first image input device and image input performed in said image input step, an image input source for supplying image data to the first application program,

wherein, in said second control step, the first transfer mode designated by the first application program is selectively changed to the second transfer mode in



accordance with the selection result obtained in said selection step.

19. An information processing method according to Claim 18, wherein, when image input performed in said image input step is selected in said selection step, the first transfer mode designated by the first application program is not changed to the second transfer mode in said second control step.

20. An information processing method according to Claim 17, wherein, in said second control step, the control information from the first application program for controlling the first image input device is analyzed and the first transfer mode designated by the first application program is selectively changed to the second transfer mode in accordance with the analysis result.

21. An information processing method according to Claim 20, wherein in said second control step, a size of image data is determined by analyzing the control information from the first application program for controlling the first image input device and the first transfer mode designated by the first application program is selectively changed to the second transfer mode in

accordance with the determination result.

22. A computer readable memory medium having recorded thereon a computer program to be executed by a computer of an information processing unit connected to a network, said computer program comprising:

a communication step for communicating data with an image input device on the network, the image input device supplying input image data to various application programs by a predetermined image input interface;

a first control step for supplying image data from the image input device to a first application program installed in said information processing unit by transferring control information based on the image input interface via the network, the control information being exchanged between the first application program and the image input device; and

a second control step for compulsorily changing part of the data exchanged between the first application program and the image input device via said first control means.

23. A computer readable memory medium according to Claim 22, wherein, the data compulsorily changed in said second control step includes data indicating a mode for transferring the image data from the image input device to the first application program.

24. A computer readable memory medium according to Claim 23, wherein the image input interface includes, as modes for transferring image data from the image input device to an application program, a first transfer mode for batch-transferring image data and a second transfer mode for dividing image data in data block units based on an instruction from the application program and transferring blocks of the image data in sequence; and

in said second control step, the first transfer mode designated by the first application program is changed to the second transfer mode.

25. A computer program to be executed by a computer of an information processing unit connected to a network, comprising:

a communication step for communicating data with an image input device on the network, the image input device supplying input image data to various application programs by a predetermined image input interface;

a first control step for supplying image data from the image input device to a first application program installed in said information processing unit by transferring control information based on the image input interface via the network, the control information being exchanged between the

first application program and the image input device; and

a second control step for compulsorily changing part of the data exchanged between the first application program and the image input device via said first control means.

26. A computer program according to Claim 25, wherein, the data compulsorily changed in said second control step includes data indicating a mode for transferring the image data from the image input device to the first application program.

27. A computer program according to Claim 26, wherein, the image input interface includes, as modes for transferring image data from the image input device to an application program, a first transfer mode for batch-transferring image data and a second transfer mode for dividing image data in data block units based on an instruction from the application program and transferring blocks of the image data in sequence; and

in said second control step, the first transfer mode designated by the first application program is changed to the second transfer mode.

28. An information processing unit connected to a network, comprising:

a communication unit of communicating data with a first image input device on the network, the first image input device supplying input image data to various application programs by a predetermined image input interface; and

a controller of supplying image data from the first image input device to a first application program installed in said information processing unit by transferring control information based on the image input interface via the network, the control information being exchanged between the first application program and the first image input device;

wherein said controller compulsorily changes part of the data exchanged between the first application program and the first image input device.